

IRG Operations Key Messages – February 22, 2022

Opening

- Good afternoon.
- Today I'll share an update on operations in Ottawa.

Ottawa

- I thought I'd switch things up a bit today, and begin with the situation in the outskirts of Ottawa since I've had questions about what's happening there.
- The protestors in Vankleek Hill have moved to a new location in the town. There were about 60 vehicles and 20 tractor trailers at the new site yesterday afternoon.
- There are still some protestors left in Arnprior, with about 15 passenger vehicles, one or two campers, and a couple of bobtails – which are semi-trucks without a trailer attached.
- As of earlier this morning, we've heard that there are two commercial motor vehicles, a couple of trailers and about ten support vehicles in Embrun.
- The police are monitoring these sites closely, and there's a plan in place to deal with any attempts to return to Ottawa.
- If the *Emergencies Act* is lifted, we'll rely on our existing authorities, just like we have in similar situations across the country.
- With respect to the downtown core, as I mentioned yesterday, there was a small demonstration of about 20 to 30 protestors in front of the War Museum. There were a few protestors there as of this morning.
- I can also report that there are one or two protestors in the secure zone, which is being addressed.

[APG]

- Speaking of the secured zone, it's being reduced to Bronson to the Rideau Canal and Somerset West to Parliament Hill. The exclusion zone has also been reduced, from the north side of Sparks to Parliament Hill, and Bay to Elgin, which encompasses the National War Memorial.
- The increased police presence downtown will continue to ensure that protestors don't return.
- Supporting local businesses is now considered a valid reason for entering the secure zone, and the Ministry of Transport is busy clearing the on and off ramps of the 417.
- Since the operation began, there have been 196 arrests with at least 389 charges laid under the *Criminal Code*.
- We're expecting to see Pat King and George Billings in court for bail hearings today. We've just heard that Tamara Lich was denied bail this morning.
- I can also report that a total of 115 vehicles have been towed.
- With respect to the emergency economic measures, as of 3:30 yesterday, **57** entities (**18** individuals and **39** vehicles, including owner/driver information) has been disclosed to:
 - banks;
 - the Canadian Bankers Association;
 - the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC);
 - the Canadian Securities Administration (CSA);
 - Credit Unions; and
 - the Mutual Fund Dealers Association.
- A total of **241** accounts (financial products) have or are about to be frozen. This includes, **219** that have or are about to be frozen and **22** that were proactively frozen.

[APG]

- Just yesterday we provided information to financial institutions to allow them to unfreeze the accounts of individuals we've found have ceased their protest activities.
- Of note, the RCMP contacted some of the individuals that had their accounts frozen, resulting in most promising to not return to Ottawa to partake in protests. "I won't be coming back to Ottawa if You're going to freeze my accounts!" This account freeze initiative was a successful disruption.
- Any further action lies with the financial institutions themselves.

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Operations across Canada

- I don't yet have anything of significance to report across Canada this morning.

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If Pressed: Emergencies Act

- We've been thinking about the *Emergencies Act* and whether it continues to be necessary a lot over the last week.
- There's no doubt that it was an effective tool in Ottawa, as it allowed us to:
 - impact the protestors financially, and encourage others to leave before they faced such sanctions;
 - compel essential services; and, perhaps most importantly,
 - was a deterrent for protests and blockade here in Ottawa and in other parts of the country.
- Having said that, due to the incredible work of the OPS, OPP, RCMP and other police services over the last week, I think that we may be able to manage the situation in Ottawa without the *Emergencies Act* moving forward.
- As we've discussed, police were able to manage and resolve protests without using the *Emergencies Act* across Canada in places like Emerson, Coutts, Windsor, Toronto and Quebec City.
- We also shouldn't forget that the injunction in Ottawa continues and that Provincial orders are in place until February 26th.
- Operationally, we have a really strong stabilization plan in place, and the OPP and RCMP will remain engaged for at least the coming week.

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